

THE CLAIMS

added a17 add B3)

- 1) A fastening means for screening panels, which fastening means includes: a ~~fastener as a combination structure having a metal tensile component and a polymeric holding component which has a ledge for holding down a panel; and a stringer for use as a joist in a screen frame, the stringer comprising a strip of cross section having a narrow width and depth sufficient to carry vertical reciprocating loads, presenting neither a top nor a bottom web, but a plurality of spaced apart platforms, each platform presenting a fastening formation which receives the tensile component, for securing a panel and a support area around or adjacent the fastening formation for supporting the panel.~~
- 2) A fastening means as claimed in claim 1, in which the metal tensile component comprises a bolt and nut.
- 3) A fastening means as claimed in either one of claims 1 or 2, which further includes a cover for an exposed portion of the metal tensile component.
- 4) A fastening means as claimed in claim 3, in which the cover has a skirt providing an improved barrier to ingress of material.
- 5) A fastening means as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4, in which the fastener is provided in combination with a toggle or butterfly near an end of the metal tensile component, for engaging a blind hole in a screening frame.
- 6) A fastening means as claimed in claim 5, in which the toggle comprises a strip or plate with the tensile member passing through an offset hole, the plate narrow enough to be passed through a hole in the screening frame member when misaligned, but long enough to be held when aligned.

- 7) A fastening means as claimed in either one of claims 5 or 6, in which the polymeric holding component is provided with a further step which fits into an enlarged hole provided in the screen frame.
- 8) A fastening means for screening panels, which includes a fastener as herein generally described.
- 9) A fastening means for screening panels, which includes a fastener as herein specifically described with reference to figures 1 to 7 of the drawings and as illustrated.
- 10) A fastening means as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 9, in which each platform of the stringer has a disc having a hole in its centre, the hole providing a fastening formation and the surround of the disc a support area for the panel around the hole.
- 11) A fastening means as claimed in claim 10, in which the centre of the hole is located immediately above the centroid of the stringer section and a recess is provided in the stringer immediately underneath the hole.
- 12) A fastening means as claimed in either one of claims 10 or 11, in which the upper support surface of the platform is flush with the upper surface of the stringer.
- 13) A fastening means for screening panels, which includes a stringer as herein generally described.
- 14) A fastening means for screening panels, which includes a stringer as herein specifically described with reference to figures 9 to 11 of the drawings.

AMENDED CLAIMS

[received by the International Bureau on 29 September 2000 (29.09.00);
original claims 21-36 replaced by new claims 21-34; remaining claims unchanged (3 pages)]

- 15) A fastening means as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 14, provided together with a screening panel which is provided with co-acting formations for co-acting with the fastener.
- 16) A fastening means and screening panel as claimed in claim 15, in which that part of the formation of the panel for co-acting with the ledge of the fastener is located at an intermediate position in the depth of the panel.
- 17) A fastening means and screening panel as claimed in either one of claims 15 or 16, in which the co-acting formations in the panel are provided at the edges of the panel.
- 18) A fastening means and screening panel as claimed in any one of claims 15 to 17, in which the co-acting formations include also a portion for co-acting with the skirt, which formations allow the skirt to enter partially into the depth of the panel.
- 19) A fastening means and screening panel as herein generally described.
- 20) A fastening means and screening panel as herein specifically described with reference to the drawings and as illustrated.
- 21) A fastener for screening panels, which fastener comprises a combination structure including a metal tensile component in the form of a bolt and nut and a polymeric holding component which includes a ledge for holding a panel, characterized in that it further includes a cover for an exposed portion of the metal tensile component.
- 22) A fastener for screening panels, as claimed in claim 21, in which the cover has a skirt which fits into a coacting recess in the edges of the panels providing an improved barrier to ingress of material.

- 23) A fastener for screening panels, as claimed in either one of claims 21 or 22, in which the fastener is provided in combination with a toggle or butterfly near an end of the metal tensile component, for engaging a blind hole in a screening frame.
- 24) A fastener for screening panels, as claimed in claim 23, in which the toggle comprises a strip or plate with the tensile member passing through an offset hole, the plate narrow enough to be passed through a hole in the screening frame member when misaligned, but long enough to be held when aligned.
- 25) A fastener for screening panels, as claimed in either one of claims 23 or 24, in which the polymeric holding component is provided with a further step which fits into an enlarged hole provided in the screen frame.
- 26) A fastener for screening panels, as herein generally described.
- 27) A fastener for screening panels, as herein specifically described with reference to figures 1 to 8 of the drawings and as illustrated.
- 28) A stringer for screening means, for use as a joist in a screen frame, the stringer comprising a strip of cross section having a narrow width and depth sufficient to carry vertical reciprocating loads, presenting neither a top nor a bottom web, but a plurality of spaced apart platforms, each platform presenting a fastening formation which receives a fastener for screening panels, for securing a panel and a support area around or adjacent the fastening formation for supporting the panel.
- 29) A stringer as claimed in claim 28, which comprises a disc having a hole in its centre, the hole providing a fastening formation and the surround of the disc a support area for the panel around the hole.

- 30) A stringer as claimed in claim 29, in which the centre of the hole is immediately above the centroid of the section of the stringer.
- 31) A stringer as claimed in either one of claims 29 or 30, in which the stringer is provided with a recess immediately below the platform.
- 32) A stringer as claimed in any one of claims 28 to 31, in which the upper support surface of the platform is flush with the upper surfaces of the stringer.
- 33) A stringer as herein generally described.
- 34) A stringer as herein specifically described with reference to figures 9 to 11 of the drawings and as illustrated.